

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ZINC IN JUNE 2006

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in June 2006 was 59,300 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate in June was 1,980 t, 13% higher than that in May but 8% lower than that in June 2005. Mine production for the first 6 months of 2006 was about 3% lower than that for the first 6 months of 2005. Estimated average daily smelter production of refined zinc was about 4% higher than that in May but about 19% lower than that in June of 2005. Apparent consumption of 93,600 t of zinc represented an increase of about 1% compared with that in May and about 6% compared with that in June of 2005.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade Zinc for the month of June was 157.93 cents per pound, a decrease of 8% from the May average price but an increase of 156% from the June 2005 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price for

June decreased to \$3,224.66 per metric ton of zinc, about a 10% decrease compared with the price in May but a 153% increase compared with the price in June 2005. During June 2006, global LME zinc stocks dropped by 21,950 t to 214,925 t.

The Defense National Stockpile Center aggregated cash disposal (sale) of zinc in June, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Zinc-004, was approximately 3,266 t (3,600 short tons), with an approximate value of \$11.5 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006).

### Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2006, Stockpile announces zinc BOA sales for June 2006: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, July 6, 1 p.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2005	2006			
	January- December	April	May	June	January- June
<b>Production:</b>					
Mine, zinc content of concentrate	748,000	56,800	56,400	61,500	353,000
Mine, recoverable zinc	720,000	54,200	54,300	59,300	339,000
Smelter, refined zinc <sup>2</sup>	259,000	19,300 <sup>e</sup>	19,100 <sup>e</sup>	19,200 <sup>e</sup>	120,000 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Consumption:</b>					
Refined zinc, reported	405,000	34,000	33,100 <sup>r</sup>	34,200	205,000
Ores <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	727	61	61	61	363
Zinc-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	191,000	15,900	15,900	15,900	95,300
Copper-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	176,000	14,700	14,700	14,700	88,000
Aluminum-and magnesium-base scrap <sup>e</sup> (zinc content)	1,430	120	120	120	717
Total <sup>e</sup>	774,000	64,800	63,900 <sup>r</sup>	65,000	390,000
Apparent consumption, metal <sup>3</sup>	939,000	85,100 <sup>r</sup>	92,200 <sup>r</sup>	93,600 <sup>4</sup>	532,000
Stocks of refined (slab) zinc, end of period:					
Producer <sup>5</sup>	XX	7,150	6,300 <sup>e</sup>	6,510 <sup>e</sup>	XX
Consumer <sup>6</sup>	XX	50,800	54,400 <sup>r</sup>	54,100	XX
Merchant	XX	10,200	10,200	10,200	XX
Total	XX	68,200	70,900 <sup>r</sup>	70,800	XX
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	20,400	2,810	301	3,270	10,500
<b>Imports for consumption:</b>					
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000 <sup>r</sup>	72,700	64,600	NA	330,000 <sup>7</sup>
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000 <sup>r</sup>	13,400	12,300	NA	57,000 <sup>7</sup>
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000 <sup>r</sup>	9,610	21,200	NA	54,100 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Exports:</b>					
Refined (slab) zinc	784 <sup>r</sup>	95	114	NA	794 <sup>7</sup>
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600 <sup>r</sup>	1,970	2,930	NA	11,400 <sup>7</sup>
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000 <sup>r</sup>	23,000	11,500	NA	73,500 <sup>7</sup>
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000 <sup>r</sup>	4,570	5,930	NA	24,400 <sup>7</sup>
<b>Price:</b>					
London Metal Exchange, average, dollars per metric ton	\$1,381.37	\$3,083.75	\$3,564.51	\$3,224.66	\$2,766.36
Platts Metals Week North American Special High Grade, average, cents per pound	67.14	148.56	172.59	157.93	133.95

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

<sup>3</sup>Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

<sup>4</sup>Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

<sup>5</sup>Data from U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

<sup>6</sup>Includes an estimate for companies that report annually.

<sup>7</sup>Includes data through May only.

TABLE 2  
REFINED ZINC PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Month	Beginning stocks <sup>3</sup>	Production	Shipments	Ending stocks <sup>3</sup>
2005:				
June	6,360	18,100	16,400	8,070
July	8,070	20,200	20,900	7,400
August	7,400	20,500	21,000	6,960
September	6,960	19,900	22,500	4,390
October	4,390	22,600	23,000	4,010
November	4,010	24,600	24,500	4,040
December	4,040	23,700	22,200	5,590
January-December	XX	259,000	258,000	XX
2006:				
January	5,590	21,200 <sup>e</sup>	20,100 <sup>e</sup>	6,750
February	6,750	19,000 <sup>e</sup>	20,200 <sup>e</sup>	5,530
March	5,530	22,100 <sup>e</sup>	21,100 <sup>e</sup>	6,580
April	6,580	19,300 <sup>e</sup>	18,800 <sup>e</sup>	7,150
May	7,150	19,100 <sup>e</sup>	19,900 <sup>e</sup>	6,300
June	6,300	19,200 <sup>e</sup>	19,000 <sup>e</sup>	6,510
January-June	XX	120,000 <sup>e</sup>	119,000 <sup>e</sup>	XX

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

<sup>3</sup>Includes stocks held at locations other than smelters.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey and American Bureau of Metal Statistics.

TABLE 3  
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY USE  
AND PRODUCT<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Industry and product	2005	2006			
	January- December <sup>2</sup>	April <sup>f</sup>	May <sup>f</sup>	June <sup>2</sup>	January- June
Galvanizing:					
Sheet and strip	392,000	35,200	37,400	38,600	221,000
Other	121,000	11,400	13,100	13,200	72,800
Total	513,000	46,600	50,500	51,800	293,000
Brass and bronze	147,000	13,400	14,900	14,900	83,600
Zinc-base alloy	203,000	18,300	19,800	19,800	114,000
Other uses <sup>3</sup>	76,900	6,800	7,100	7,000	41,100
Grand total	939,000	85,100	92,200	93,600	532,000

<sup>f</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Data based on reported consumption, stocks, and estimated trade data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, castings, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4  
AVERAGE ZINC PRICES<sup>1</sup>

Period	North American	LME <sup>2</sup> cash	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2005:			
June	61.73	57.85	1,275.33
July	57.96	54.16	1,194.08
August	62.94	58.88	1,298.05
September	67.89	63.37	1,397.08
October	72.66	67.49	1,487.91
November	78.47	73.06	1,610.61
December	88.01	82.62	1,821.44
January-December	67.14	62.66	1,381.37
2006:			
January	100.96	94.80	2,089.92
February	106.84	100.65	2,218.90
March	116.80	109.61	2,416.44
April	148.56	139.88	3,083.75
May	172.59	161.68	3,564.51
June	157.93	146.27	3,224.66
January-June	133.95	125.48	2,766.36

<sup>1</sup>Special High Grade.

<sup>2</sup>London Metal Exchange.

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

Material	2005		2006 <sup>2</sup>			
			May		Year to date	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	784	\$1,500	114	\$137	794	\$1,780
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	786,000	477,000	11,500	8,190	73,500	46,800
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	56,000	62,000	5,930	7,250	24,400	32,900
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	9,310	18,500	1,230	2,350	4,650	9,550
Oxide (gross weight)	14,600	23,600	2,930	4,490	11,400	17,400
Chloride (gross weight)	1,860	2,310	84	97	446	546
Sulfate (gross weight)	2,820	1,870	5,400	3,670	6,820	4,590
Compounds, other (gross weight)	1,130	887	42	204	131	462

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Data for June 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC<sup>1</sup>

Material	2005		2006 <sup>2</sup>			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	May		Year to date	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Refined (slab) zinc	668,000	\$875,000	64,600	\$135,000	330,000	\$584,000
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	156,000	117,000	21,200	19,300	54,100	60,500
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	9,580	8,820	1,110	1,480	5,680	6,860
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	46,000	2,710	8,990	11,300	32,000
Oxide (gross weight)	109,000	127,000	12,300	21,900	57,000	87,600
Chloride (gross weight)	723	1,250	431	520	680	971
Sulfate (gross weight)	31,100	16,600	3,380	2,390	19,700	11,800
Compounds, other (gross weight)	7,010	6,370	194	204	3,630	2,370

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

<sup>2</sup>Data for June 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL  
DEFENSE STOCKPILE<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Period	Beginning inventory	Shipments	Ending inventory
2005:			
June	65,100	2,960	62,100
July	62,100	2,600	59,500
August	59,500	3,680	55,800
September	55,800	3,710	52,100
October	52,100	3,010	49,100
November	49,100	2,830	46,300
December	46,300	299	46,000
January-December	XX	20,400	XX
2006:			
January	46,000	1,890	44,100
February	44,100	526	43,600
March	43,600	1,720	41,900
April	41,900	2,810	39,000
May	39,000	301	38,700
June	38,700	3,270	35,500
January-June	XX	10,500	XX

XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Defense Logistics Agency.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
		May	Year to date		May	Year to date
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Australia	8,590	--	2,850	8,590	--	2,850
Ireland	13,000	--	8,470	13,000	--	8,470
Mexico	27,300	14,300	17,200	27,300	14,300	17,200
Peru	104,000	6,380	23,900	104,000	6,390	23,900
Other	2,900	503	1,680	2,900	503	1,680
Total	156,000	21,200	54,100	156,000	21,200	54,100
Blocks, pigs, or slab:						
Australia	1	--	--	24,600	2,770	17,400
Brazil	43,700	500	6,460	43,800	500	6,740
Canada	439,000	43,400	220,000	439,000	43,400	220,000
China	15	--	3	2,140	6,910	25,200
Japan	--	--	--	1,210	344	2,220
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	--	--	--
Korea, Republic of	5,030	--	--	8,710	6,140	27,800
Mexico	147,000	4,440	28,800	147,000	4,440	28,800
Norway	--	--	--	--	100	932
Peru	235	--	194	834	--	471
Other	1,320	21	21	1,770	21	21
Total	636,000	48,400	256,000	668,000	64,600	330,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	15,800	6,640	13,600	15,800	6,640	13,600
Grand total	807,000	76,200	324,000	840,000	92,500	398,000
Oxide (gross weight):						
Canada	62,000	5,210	23,300	62,000	5,210	23,300
China	173	4	36	173	4	36
Italy	15,400	3,600	8,560	15,400	3,600	8,560
Japan	1,080	88	529	1,080	88	529
Mexico	24,100	2,800	13,700	24,100	2,800	13,700
Netherlands	4,450	559	2,680	4,450	559	2,680
Other	2,040	54	8,230	2,040	54	8,230
Total	109,000	12,300	57,000	109,000	12,300	57,000
Other (gross weight):						
Waste and scrap	9,580	1,110	5,680	9,580	1,110	5,680
Sheets	3,630	107	1,090	3,630	107	1,090
Powders, flakes, dust (zinc content)	23,400	2,710	11,300	23,400	2,710	11,300

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Data for June 2006 were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.